

COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI S. LIGHTNER

FIRST DISTRICT CITY OF SAN DIEGO

November 9, 2009

Ken Wiseman, Executive Director California Natural Resources Agency 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Wiseman,

I represent Council District One of the City of San Diego, which includes the communities of La Jolla, University City, Carmel Valley, Torrey Pines, Torrey Hills, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Black Mountain Ranch, Rancho Penasquitos and parts of Del Mar.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the final draft MLPA proposals for Southern California. I am concerned with the process used to develop the final draft proposals. While I appreciate all of the hard work that has gone into the development of the various proposals, I am dismayed at the failure of the Committee to adequately inform the public or actively solicit input from directly affected communities, including La Jolla.

The community of La Jolla will be seriously impacted by most of the draft proposals but was not included in the public outreach or participation. Only very recently have portions of the community become aware of how significantly and for how long some of these proposals will affect our quality of life and our local businesses.

Without the opportunity for community review and input, I support the MLPA2 proposal (the new Working Group 2 – Option 4 proposal), because it minimizes the impacts to coastal recreational activities in La Jolla. The South La Jolla area has 24 public physical accesses to the ocean, as given in the La Jolla Community Plan and Local Coastal Program. Shore, spear, kayak, boat and surfboard fishing are enjoyed by the public, especially families. To end these activities for a minimum of five years will have social and economic impacts for the public that I do not believe have been adequately evaluated.

More time is needed to answer questions such as, where will the people who have previously walked or biked to recreate on the shore or in the ocean go to recreate now?

It seems likely that selecting one of the options that includes both La Jolla Shores and South La Jolla as MPAs will lead to all fishing activity becoming concentrated into a small area along the remaining unprotected section of coastline off La Jolla Cove, which could jeopardize public

safety. Will the establishment of MPAs in La Jolla Shores and South La Jolla lead to recreational fishing being eliminated forever in these locations?

Several concerns have been brought to my attention. In particular,

- If South La Jolla is included and with the MLPA's prohibition of all extractive activities below the mean high tide line, does this mean dead marine mammals will not be removed from the beach? For instance, a number of years ago, a whale washed up on the beach in Bird Rock and its removal took some time the stench is still remembered today.
- Additionally, the minimum time limit for the SCR is five years what happens at the end of five years? Is affirmative action required to keep the reserves in place, or do these reserves continue until action is taken to remove the protections?
- The existing reserve at La Jolla Shores was formed by the community and approved by the San Diego City Council in 1970. It has well-defined boundaries. There is a community funded and maintained lithocrete map in Kellogg Park at La Jolla Shores showing the existing reserve's boundaries and describing what can be seen in the reserve. Keeping the present boundaries is the best course the public knows them, and the map documents them beautifully (see attached map).
- How will these reserves be enforced? Who pays for the enforcement? On page 24 of "California MLPA South Coast Study Region, Description of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in SCRSG MPA Proposal 3 Document edit date September 22, 2009," it is stated for South La Jolla Reefs SMR, "Scripps Institute (sic) of Oceanography and UCSD overlook most of the SMR and can both monitor, study and help enforce the simple regulations." Have Scripps Institution of Oceanography and UCSD agreed to this responsibility? How will these areas be coordinated with the two local Areas of Special Biologic Significance previously mandated and left unfunded by the State?
- Finally, the La Jolla Town Council has also submitted a letter expressing their concerns with any proposal that would include South La Jolla as a reserve (please see attached letter).

I support the MLPA2 proposal (the new Working Group 2 – Option 4 proposal). It provides the needed resource protection without unnecessarily jeopardizing the recreational opportunities of local families.

If I or my staff can be of further assistance, please contact my office at 619.236.6611.

Best Regards,

Sherri S. Lightner

SL/ed



November 4, 2009

SCRSG MPA South La Jolla Reefs SMR (Proposed) MPA ID 73147

Re: La Jolla's Windansea Master Plan

Blue Ribbon Task Force:

We ask that you respect the long standing La Jolla's Windansea Master Plan which has functioned successfully for years permitting recreational activities. Included in that plan were "Windansea Beach is renowned for its recreational activities of surfing, swimming, fishing, diving and sunbathing; these attributes are to be protected". The fishing activity is surf fishing for children and adults.

La Jolla's Windansea Master Plan was approved and passed 21-0-0 by the La Jolla Town Council on June 10, 1999, and subsequently by the San Diego City Council.

To strip any of these activities from La Jolla's Windansea Master Plan makes no sense in the larger picture. Please don't deny the public from utilizing this long vested right.

Sineerely.

Vice President

Kellogg Park Map

La Jolla Shores Beach

In September 2007, groundbreaking begins for the installation of a 31x63-foot educational map of La Jolla Shores' natural and manmade features.

Local marine life and natural and historical landmarks will be featured on "The Map" in a smooth, Lithocrete surface of crushed glass, aggregate, and sea shells.

"The Map" will create a keen awareness of the ecological, geological, cultural, and environmental features of the ocean in an effort to foster stewardship to protect regions that have been designated Areas of Special Biological Significance. The Map's location will be adjacent to the boardwalk along La Jolla Shores beach and the children's playground. For more information on the map project, visit http://www.lajollashoresmap.com.

